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“HE THAT READETH LET HIM UNDERSTAND.”

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THIRD GENERAL EPISTLE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE AUSTRALIAN MISSION.

TO THE SAINTS AND INHABITANTS OF AUSTRALASIA, GREETING.

To the Saints—Beloved Brethren and Sisters,—

Being about to depart from these lands, and to return to the land of our nativity, and to the home of the Saint, in the Valleys of Ephraim, where the Priesthood of God exists, to lead His people in the ways of life and salvation, we feel called upon to address you, for the purpose of giving you instruction and counsel, and to encourage those who remain, to continue faithful in the work of the Lord.

It will be in the recollection of those, who are acquainted with the condition of the work when we arrived in these lands ; and, also the state of public feeling in reference to the same—that difficulties encompassed our path—that the feelings both of the Saints (with a few exceptions) and the public were against our appearance and our message ; but through humble dependence upon our Heavenly Father, with the co-operation of His Holy Spirit, a mighty change has been wrought. The Saints generally look upon us as the Servants of the Highest, having power to administer the blessings of salvation, whilst hundreds of honest enquirers after truth pay to us marks of respect and honor which are cheering to our hearts.

How has this influence been obtained—this mighty change accomplished ? It has been through the influence of the Spirit of the Lord, who has been with us by night and by day, blessing our words and our deeds. These blessings and this power we have obtained by walking in conformity to the counsel of the servants of God, who stand at our head ; and in this we are an example to you ; follow us as we have followed them that are above us.

The truths of the gospel are only beneficial in the degree that they are exhibited in our lives. It was by obedience that Jesus obtained His glory. Obedience is an embodiment in our actions of the principles of truth and righteousness. There is no other path but that by which we can attain unto the blessings of salvation. How necessary it is then that the counsels

and commandments of the Lord, as they are communicated by His servants should be attended to. Inasmuch as obedience brings life; how necessary that the word of the Lord should be esteemed as being sweeter than honey and more precious than rubies; yea, that the same estimation should be put upon the will of the Lord, that was placed upon it by the Saviour himself, when He said, "My meat and my drink is to do the will of my father!" and again, "My brethren and my sisters are they which do the will of my father."

Saints profess to be built upon the foundation of Apostles and Prophets; not the dead letter of Apostles who lived centuries ago, but the living word of a living messenger, clothed upon with power from on High; so that he becomes the mouth-piece of God, beseeching the Saints in God's stead to be obedient in all things. Then let all saints show that they have received this high and holy principle; that they are built upon this sure foundation, by exhibiting in their daily walk and conversation, a practical development of the same. Obeying in all things those who are set over them in the gospel, such a course will cement them in a bond of union, that cannot be broken; give them strength to overcome the powers of darkness, and cause their minds to be filled with the Holy Spirit, which will cause a joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Days of trial await the Saints who remain in these lands—days of darkness, so that it will require all the influence and power of the Holy Spirit, that they can obtain here. It is for this reason, that we have been so urgent upon the life-giving principle of obedience, so that the Saints may be able to stand, yea to stand in the trying day.

Let all Saints remember the peculiar character of this dispensation, remember that it is a gathering dispensation, that having obeyed those laws necessary to their induction into the Kingdom of God, it becomes now their bounden duty to concentrate all their energies for the purpose of gathering to that place, where that Kingdom is organised, and where its authority only is recognised; that there they may learn His ways and walk in His paths.

Let all then be diligent in business serving the Lord, and prepare with all possible speed to follow after us, for be assured that all who have obeyed the Gospel, and neglect to cultivate obedience to the counsels to gather, will lose the Spirit of the Lord and go down to darkness.

Let all sustain by their faith and prayers, those who will be appointed to succeed us in the Presidency of this Mission, attend to their counsels as to the word of the Lord.

In as much as days of darkness are to overspread these lands, we would counsel all of the Priesthood to stand immovable in the work of the Lord, according to their place and authority. Let them not diverge to the right hand nor the left from the principles of righteousness and be obedient in all things, and God our Heavenly Father will give you power through His Holy Spirit, and crown your labours with success.

May the Lord God of Israel bless and preserve you. AMEN.

TO THE INHABITANTS.

Duty again demands that we should address ourselves to you, previous to our departure from these shores. We have been sent by the God of Heaven,

who has in these last days revealed Himself from on High, for the purpose of calling on the children of men, to lay aside their corruptions and human institutions, and to obey the Gospel, and to warn them of the judgments that were about to take place.

We came humble, dependant only on the Spirit of the Lord, for power and wisdom to assist us in the great work committed to our charge, whilst our message is to all, for the Gospel is to be preached to all, that God may be just in the infliction of judgments, yet we would specially address ourselves at this time to Governors, Legislators, Magistrates, Preachers and Teachers, for you are the directors of the public mind, the persons who are directly responsible for the condition and character of the people.

Then we call your particular attention to the fact that your institutions claim no higher an origin than man, therefore your authority is human, not divine, pertaineth to that which passeth away, not to that which endureth for ever. Your systems of Government must pass away, because they have not within them the elements of immutability. Your sects and divisions must pass away, because they are built up by and sustained through the influence of a carnal spirit, a carnal spirit belongs to darkness, not to the light ; to the evil, not to the good, is unrighteous, not righteous. Now light must over come darkness, good overcome evil, and unrighteousness must give way before the effulgent beams of the Sun of righteousness. Then if you abide with and uphold these systems, your name must perish, your honor vanish, your fame be obliterated, for it is only the righteous that are to shine more and more unto the perfect day.

Then who are the righteous, they are they who obey the laws of righteousness, the laws by which a man is inducted into the Kingdom of God. These are faith in God and in His son Jesus Christ, repentance (that is ceasing from evil and doing that which is good), baptism for the remission of sins, and the gift of the Holy Ghost by laying on of hands. Those who obey these laws and abide in them, are baptized by the one spirit into the one body, they have one God, one Faith, both for temporal and spiritual things, one Baptism, and one Hope. They are not torn asunder into factions, but are perfectly joined together, being of one mind, and are therefore spiritual not carnal, pertaining to that which will abide, not to that which will pass away. The name of such will never perish, their honor endure for ever, and their fame be endless.

The way in which men can obtain these great blessings is by the reception of and obedience to, the message of God, as it has been given in these days, and as it is made known to you by His servants, who have been ordained, and sent forth through the authority committed to the Prophet Joseph Smith in these last days.

Joseph Smith was a Prophet, for he revealed the Gospel in its plainness and fullness ; he revealed the organization and laws of the Kingdom of God ; he revealed the condition of the house of Israel, and the purposes of God for their gathering ; he revealed the present and future condition of the nations, and, like all true servants of God, promised the gift of the Holy Ghost as a testing principle to all those who obey the Gospel, through his administrations or the administrations of those sent by him. Thousands have

obeyed, and can testify to the truth of the promise—who are co-witnesses with him of the fact that God hath revealed himself in these last days.

Amidst others who can testify to these things, we through obedience have been blessed with that knowledge, and do hereby testify to the truth thereof. We knew the Prophet and knew him to be a good and upright man, a Prophet of God clothed upon with the Holy Priesthood, after the order of the Son of God, and that he sealed his testimony with his blood.

We also testify that Brigham Young is a good and upright man—a Prophet of the most High, possessing the keys of life and salvation to administer to the faithful sons and daughters of men.

Because that the world spoke evil of the Prophet Joseph, and in the end murdered him, and that they now malign the Prophet Brigham, and heap contumely upon the Saints of God ; it is no proof that they are not good men, that they are not Saints and Prophets of God ! any more than such conduct towards Jesus and His Apostles proved them to be bad men ; but it is a proof that the Saviour's words are true when he said, "If ye were of the world, the world would love you, but because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you as the world hateth me, the world hateth you." But there is — consolation in His promise, wherein he said, "Blessed are you when men persecute you, and speak all manner of evil against you falsely for my names-sake, for great is your reward in the Kingdom of Heaven."

We would beseech you and all men everywhere, to lay aside every prejudice and to disregard, every influence and humble yourselves before the God of Heaven in prayer, that you may come to a knowledge of and obedience to the truth, to this end we beseech you to pay due regard to the servants of God who remain in your midst, for if you do not heed the voice of His servants, He will come upon you with the voice of His thunders and lightnings, with the voice of earthquakes, famines, pestilence, and internal strife, for it is easier for Heaven and Earth to pass away than that one jot or title of His word should fail. AMEN.

Presidency of this Mission.

AUGUSTUS FARNHAM,
JOSIAH W. FLEMING,
ABSALOM P. DOWDLE.

Original Correspondence.

G. S. L. City, Oct. 31, 1855.

PRESIDENT AUGUSTUS FARNHAM AND COUNSELLORS,

Dear Brethren,—

You are often in my thoughts, and ever in my prayers, while upon your mission in those far-off regions, as are also the Saints under your watch and care, and it would be a gratification to my feelings, did circumstances permit me to write more frequently to you ; not because I have any new counsel on my mind particularly adapted to your situations, nor again that I have heard

aught of an unpleasant nature concerning your movements. But I am perfectly aware that the Elders and Saints abroad highly prize a few lines from their friends in Deseret, and endeavour, so far as consistent, to comply cheerfully with those natural and laudible desires in this matter.

During the past season our efforts for raising an abundance of the products of the soil, have been unwearied and energetic, but, owing to the devastations of grasshoppers and the severity of the drouth, our expectations have been at fault, though our labors have so far been crowned with success, that we presume a sufficiency has been raised to answer the wants of the people, until another harvest. Fruit trees have flourished luxuriantly, and our soil and climate prove admirably adapted to growing peaches, an abundant crop of which, for the number of bearing trees has just been gathered, and most of the varieties have been of goodly size and excellent flavour ; California grapes and many other kinds of fruit also produced in great abundance, and are seldom, if anywhere, surpassed in size and quality.

In view of this fact, it would be well for our returning Elders, and the Saints who are gathering from every clime, to bring such kinds of fruit seeds as may be likely to prove suitable to our location, that we may have all possible variety to please the eye, gratify the appetite, and gladden the soul of man.

Improvements of various descriptions are being rapidly made, not only in this, but in various portions of our Territory.

In this city the massive foundation for the Temple is finished, and ready for the commencement of the walls of that building ; nearly $3\frac{1}{4}$ of the coping stone is laid upon the Temple Block, the Church Historian and Recorder's Office and connected dwelling will soon be closed ; the walls of a large and well-designed County Court House will be finished in a few days ; my large family dwelling, immediately west of and connected with my office buildings, will soon be glazed, many of the floors are laid and the workmen are busily engaged in finishing it ; many durable and beautiful cobble stone walls have been built around city lots, and other valuable, comfortable and ornamental improvements made which it would be tedious to specify. The warden house in the Penitentiary is completed, and the south wing of the State House in Fillmore will soon be in readiness for the session of our next Legislative Assembly, which meets at that place on the 2nd Monday of the ensuing December, and for which point I expect to start in the early part of that month, and remain there until the Session of 40 days is ended.

On the 23rd Sept. last, Brothers Edward Edwards, James W. Hunt, and Wm. Behaner were killed by the Indians, at the settlement on the left bank of Grand River, near the Elle Mountains, and the balance of the company were obliged to evacuate that post for the present. The Indians around Fort Supply, and Bridger, have also been a little threatening, but at present all our red neighbours are quiet, and there is a good prospect of their remaining so. Elder Orson Hyde has organized Carson County, much to the gratification and satisfaction of the inhabitants of that region, assisted in establishing certain disputed points in our western boundary, which leaves the valuable part of Carson Valley in the Territory, established the County seat and named it Genoa.

So far as I am aware all is peace, industry, happiness and general health throughout our borders, for which I feel thankful continually to the giver of all good, for his great kindness and manifold mercies.

I regretted to learn that the ship on which Elders Frost, Owens and Company sailed, had been obliged, through damage, to stop at Honolulu, short of her destined port; but rejoiced to hear that Brother Frost and a few others had reached our western coast, and trust that they will all profit by their trials, endure the same in patience, and ere long have the gratification of rejoicing in our midst.

You are aware that it is your privilege to enjoy all that measure of the Holy Spirit that it is necessary for your guidance upon your missions, and owing to the distance which separated us, and the uncertainty of instructions reaching their destinations, you are all at liberty to return home at such times as the spirit may dictate in your Councils, doing all things in accordance with the dictates thereof.

From the great delay, expense, and vexation attending our former mode of transporting the P. E. Fund passengers, I have instructed the fund agents to furnish no animals nor waggons another season, except a few good milch cows and a few fat cattle to drive along for beef, and I am sanguine that four immigrants can walk through and draw their luggage in board carts at a quicker rate, and more satisfactorily, and far cheaper, than by the method heretofore in vogue. Another great benefit which will arise from this plan, will be the discouraging of that class who are hawled through and afterwards apostatize.

When I hear from you, which is but seldom, I rejoice to learn of your success, faith, zeal, industry and good works, and do not know that you stand in need of any more counsel in your duties than what is couched in the words, 'Live your religion', which if we do continually all will be right.

Further details of current events you will learn from the *News* and other papers, and from your families and friends who are all well, so far as I am informed.

Praying that the choice blessings of Heaven may ever attend your faithful labors.

I remain, as ever, your Brother in the Gospel,
BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Tahiti, March 21st, 1856.

DEAR PRESIDENT FARNHAM,—

I now take the present opportunity of sending you a few lines by the Caroline Hart, which vessel is about to leave here for Sydney, no doubt you think it strange that I have not wrote to you before, but having written to my son Charles the particulars concerning the wreck and of our situation, requesting him to communicate the same to you, which I thought would answer the same purpose as writing. But as our circumstances are, it requires me to write to you, to let you know that there still remains on the Island of Tahiti, nineteen of the company; my own family with the orphans, Brother Anderson's family, Brother Logie, wife and child, (Brother Logie, wife and child is about to sail for San Francisco in about a fortnight,) they send their love to you and all friends.

How Brother Anderson or myself will get away I know not, for we are surrounded here with enemies on every hand, and have not the slightest chance of getting away, except you can prevail upon the Captain of the vessel that brings out the next company, to call at Tahiti and take away us poor castaways, which I hope will do, as I see no chance of getting away. I have sent two letters to Brother Parley P. Pratt at San Francisco, the first one I sent by Captain Coffin, Captain of the Julia Ann, who sailed for San Francisco on the 14th January; the other I sent by Brother John M'Carthy, who sailed for San Francisco about the 26th February; tell Charles and Thomas that we are still alive and in health, except we are afflicted with some sore boils. Give our love to all the Elders and Saints in Australia, and receive the same yourself.

I remain your Brother in the Gospel of Christ,

JOHN PENFOLD.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALASIAN MISSION OF THE
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, HELD AT
THE OLD ASSEMBLY ROOMS, KING STREET, SYDNEY, SUNDAY,
JAN. 6TH, 1856.

Conference met at 11 a.m.

Meeting was opened in the usual manner.

Elder J. Jones was appointed Clerk, and Elder A. Farnham, President of the Conference.

President Farnham addressed the Meeting, after which the usual resolutions were passed for sustaining the Presidencies of the Branch and Mission, with the Presidency in Zion, together with all the other authorities of the Church there and throughout the world.

The Elders' reports were then received, then a Hymn was sung.

Conference adjourned until 3 P.M.

Dismissed with Benediction.

Conference met at 3 P.M.

Meeting opened in the usual manner, after which the Sacrament was administered, when the President addressed the Saints on the subject of gathering, stating that all had counsel to gather up to Zion. He counselled the Saints to fidelity in the work of the Lord.

A Hymn was sung.

Conference adjourned until 7 P.M.

Dismissed with Benediction.

Conference met at 7 P.M.

Meeting opened in the usual manner, after which an address was delivered by President Dowdle.

Adjourned until 11 A.M. on Monday morning, at 103, Parramatta Street.

Dismissed with Benediction.

There were two Meetings on Monday, one in the morning, the other in the evening, which were addressed by the Presidency and the Elders; much of the spirit of the Lord prevailed, and much instruction and counsel was given.

Conference adjourned until the first Sunday in April.

Dismissed with Benediction.

JOHN JONES, CLERK.

A. FARNHAM, PRESIDENT.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, HELD AT THE OLD ASSEMBLY ROOMS, KING STREET, ON SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH, 1856.

THE meeting was opened by singing a hymn, after which Elder A. P. Dowdle engaged in prayer, when another hymn was sung; after which President J. W. Fleming declared the meeting open for the transaction of business.

Resolved, 1st—That Elder John Jones be the Clerk of the Conference.

2nd—That Elder A. Farnham preside over this Conference.

President Farnham then arose and said—Brethren and Sisters, being called upon to stand befor you as President of the Conference, I rejoice that through the Priesthood and the influence of the spirit of the Lord, so many have been led to assemble under this roof, to transact business that is of the greatest importance to each one present, and it is of equally as much importance to all mankind. Business that is regulated by the principles of eternal truth, transacted under the authority of the Church of God. We were sent by His servants to these lands to act; to roll forth the sublime things of the Kingdom, which were ordained before the foundations of this world were laid. I hope that the saints will exercise their rights, for my desire is, that all may understand that it is their privilege to take part in these proceedings, by voting in the affirmative or negative. Let no one vote to sustain those whom they cannot feel to sustain; let such, if there be any vote in the negative, and give their reason for so doing. It is the privilege of all to know the truth of every principle by the influence of the Holy Spirit, who will regulate your hearts and give you that knowledge, if you will be influenced by that Spirit.

The Lord will always support and direct His servants, and enable them to perceive their way; He will instruct and reveal to them His righteous purposes, and crown their labours with many blessings. When I look at this assembly and think of the condition of the work when we arrived here, it does indeed appear that the Lord has blessed

our labours, and this congregation is but a small part of the fruits of the labours of the Elders. They have gone forth like the sower, and sowed the seed of truth ; and, as it is with the husbandman, having sowed the seed he waiteth for it to grow, and when the ear has become full and has ripened, he prepares to gather it in—so it is with the Gospel. It has been preached, many have received it and are ready to be gathered, others are enquiring and examining, and the truth is taking root in their hearts ; thus we have realized the influence of the Holy Spirit, and our labours have been crowned with success. Looking at all things I am not disposed to murmur, but to give thanks to Him who is eternal for thus acknowledging and blessing us, and I know by the Spirit that the work is not yet closed in these lands, for there are those who are honest ; there are thousands of honest-hearted men and women in these lands who will yet receive the Gospel of salvation, and rejoice in the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit obtained through obedience ; but there are those who will reject the Gospel, and seal their own condemnation, for men must give an account of their stewardships, and be judged according to their privileges. The Lord has said that those who walk in obedience to His commandments, shall be saved and receive of His glory, that is, receive of that fulness of knowledge which is in heaven and earth, that they may be prepared for the coming of His son, who will come to take vengeance on them, that know not God and have not obeyed the Gospel. Those who will reject the Gospel of Christ, are such as will be damned. The servants of God are sent forth to preach the Gospel, as it has been revealed in these days, and which is to be preached (as the Saviour said), as a witness before the end shall come. They, the servants of God, are proclaiming this Gospel, and calling upon men to repent—upon all men were their voices can be heard, and they will appear before Him that is eternal.

We have been called and ordained, and sent forth to preach the Gospel as a witness, and there, before the throne of the Eternal, we shall appear as witnesses against these who reject our message. This is a true principle ; for, is it not written, that the Saints shall judge angels—yea, and judge the world. We will be the judges of all the workers of iniquity ; those who deny this doctrine, do not understand the Scriptures. Those are the honest in heart, who, when we go forth preaching the Gospel, adhere to our words and are saved, and have power given to them to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection to meet with their Elder brother, the Lord Jesus Christ ; the wicked will have to wait, they shall not come forth until the second resurrection, and the second death will have power over such. Those who walk in obedience, will receive their possessions with the Saints on the earth, and when the Son of Man shall appear, they shall be with him and partake of His glory.

We shall now proceed to the transaction of business. Let the brethren and sisters vote as seemeth good ; but do not vote against an officer unless you have a cause, and can substantiate the same. Let all act in unison, and all will be done by the Spirit of the Father who has called us from darkness to light, from the world unto the Kingdom of God. AMEN.

Resolved 3rd—That we receive and sustain Elder Josiah W. Fleming as President of the Sydney Branch.

4th—That we receive and sustain Augustus Farnham as President of this Mission.

5th—That we receive and sustain J. W. Fleming and A. P. Dowdle, as counsellors to President Farnham.

6th—That we receive and sustain Brigham Young, as the Prophet, Seer, and Revelator of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Zion, and throughout the world, and as our Leader in Israel, also Heber C. Kimball and Jedediah M. Grant as his Counsellors.

7th—That we receive and sustain all the other authorities of the Church in Zion and throughout the world.

The President then called for the report of the Elders. Elder A. P. Dowdle said that as the brethren were mostly aware he had been travelling, and preaching in the N. W. Section, Elder Baxter being in company with me ; the Lord has blessed our labours in that place. The work is prospering, and the Spirit of God is being enjoyed by the Saints, and its influence is felt among others who are enquiring into the principles, several have been baptized, and there are many honest in heart, being brought to a knowledge of the truth. The saints are rejoicing in the spirit, being faithful to the work.

President Farnham introduced Elder William Cooke to the congregation, who said that it gave him great pleasure to appear before them, as they were aware he had been labouring alone in New Zealand. He left here on 20th October, 1854, in company with President Farnham, who went to open up the Gospel in that colony, who returned after visiting and preaching at some of the principal cities on the 17th of March last. There are circumstances which are peculiar to that country, that retarded the spread of the Gospel. He also felt his own weakness, but the Lord had upheld him. I called upon the press to lay the truth before the people, but they would not publish. My labours were confined principally to the provinces of Nelson and Wellington, visiting almost every family, calling alike on priest and people, warning them and testifying of the Gospel, preaching sometimes in the field, at others on the road side, and in houses where admittance could be obtained. There has been 12 baptized, there has been considerable excitement created, whole families are enquiring into our principals, and a great demand for books, so that it was with feelings of regret that I prepared to depart from that land,

but I left to flee to Zion, being relieved by the President of the Mission.

The Honorable Mr. J. Butler, a Member of the Legislative Council, who was also a preacher amongst the Campbellites, who are known there as the Christian Disciple challenged me to a controversy, I tried to avoid him, not being sent to contend, but to preach the Gospel, but at last I accepted his challenge. He was to prove that Joseph Smith was not divinely commissioned of God, but an impostor ; that he was the man of sin, and his doctrines the doctrines of devils ; I never saw a man more confounded than was that man. This gave an influence to the cause so much so, that I soon sold all the books that I had, and great enquiry for more. The Lord has indeed blessed me, and upheld me by His power, for which I feel humbly thankful.

President Farnham rose and said, that he received reports from Victoria by letter, the work was going forward, but not so rapidly as when the American elders were there, they were called home by the Presidency in Zion, and had left one year on the 27th instant. The President there is Elder Spencer, who is a persevering and faithful young man ; difficulties have arisen such as are peculiar to all gold fields, it is my intention to remove that Branch from the gold fields, and to reorganize it in the more densely populated city of Melbourne, where the people are not so fully occupied in getting and spending gold.

Elder John Norton is labouring in Adelaide, the work is prospering, many of the Saints are preparing to gather,—they are intending to depart for Zion on April 15th. The work in Sydney is as prosperous as at any other time if not more so.

It is now four years since the first Conference was held in these lands, since that time four companions have departed from these lands, three of them have arrived on the land of Zion, but the last company which left here on board the barque Julia Ann, are still at Tahiti, two letters has been received, one from Elder A. Anderson, the other from brother Peter Penfold, giving an account of the total wreck of that vessel together with the suffering of the company. Some had complained because I had not made known these letters, but I would inform such that it was impossible for me to do so until I received them, I only received the intelligence per Gazelle on Monday last, the same day I made the principal Elders acquainted with the fact on the following morning, Tuesday. I went to the agents who accompanied me on board the Gazelle, when further information was obtained, then we returned to the agents office and drew up the statement that appeared in the papers on the following morning, this conduct does not appear as exhibiting a desire to keep the subject dark. He then called upon the clerk to read Elder Anderson's letter.

Tahiti, Feb. 22nd, 1856.

DEAR PRESIDENT,

I write you these few lines to let you know a little of what has befallen us since we parted with you on board of the Julia Ann, (which is now no more,) (

a little after you left we gathered between the poop and steerage house to sing, we sang or attempted to sing "The gallant ship is under weigh," which seemed to me ridiculously done, more like a funeral hymn than on the occasion it was. We all began to take dinner, but several of us sickened and threw up that which we had taken. My family and others were sick little or much all the time we were on board of the Julia Ann. We got some Indian corn meal which was a good thing for us, as for our faithfulness or the faithfulness of our company, there was to all external appearance, unity and strict adherence to our most holy faith, up to the time of the wreck then appeared a very different aspect, the 3rd of October with us, but the 4th with you in Sydney, we were getting rapidly on with good wind, we were talking of soon being able to get to San Francisco, but alas ! we little knew what was to happen to us before another day's sun. About half-past eight o'clock she struck on a reef of coral rock, (it would be about half-past four o'clock with you in Sydney) this was an awful event in our lives. There was four of our children asleep and in bed ; there was very few in the steerage, chiefly on the steerage house, poop, &c. I had been asked two or three times why I was not out, —was I well enough ? Yes, well enough thank you, but lazy or something else, (it seems a forboding of what took place,) there was Sister Harris, Sister Logie, my wife and myself in the steerage house at the moment the Julia Ann struck, my wife ran to me and said what shall we do, I said I do not think there is much the matter, compose yourself. Mr. Owens, 2nd mate, came in and told us to compose ourselves and remain as we were, and all would be right in a little, so it would for in a few minutes more, we would have been on the other side of the vale : word came out from some one for the passengers to go to the cabin, and by the time I got the four children out of bed, the water was knocking about the boxes, I got my leg very much bruised with a large box, with difficulty we gained the cabin, and about ten minutes after we left, house, gally, and box was all over board, preparations were made to go on the rocks to ascertain whether we could get any footing, as there was no land in sight, the ship was breaking up fast. I must now be brief, we were abandoned to our fate, the Sailors and Captains, brothers McCarthy, Elderage, Logie, and two Penfolds, there was brothers Graham, Peter Penfold, sisters Humphries, Harris, and all my family, with the exception of Jane, there was another family whose husband and father had abandoned a wife and six children and gone to the rocks. I had passed my wife up and expected she was gone to the rocks with the others ; a long time elapsed and hearing all quiet, I told the children that were with me, to hold on till I went on board to see what could be done, when I went there I found not a soul on deck but my wife, who would not go without the remaining children, I then got up the children to her, and I had to hold them, Agness, Sisters Humphreys and Harris and children were still below with Brother P. Penfold, Maria Harris and Frank Humphreys was passed to us, which kept me from looking after any one else, so my Marion was put out of her place and got drowned, Sisters Humphries and her daughter Mary, Sisters Harris and her boy got drowned, also we passed a miserable night, not knowing whether we could reach land or not, at daylight land was discerned about ten miles off, we lived two months on that two and more on this, and no appear-

ance of getting off, we all send our love to you and all the saints, from your brother,

A. ANDERSON.

Sang a Hymn, the Conference adjourned until 3 P.M. Benediction by Elder J. W. Fleming.

Adjourned Meeting of 3 P.M.

Opened by singing a Hymn. Prayer by Elder Chevellier, after which another Hymn was sung, when three Brethren and three Sisters were confirmed Members of the Church. The President introduced Elder Chevellier and Sister Chevellier, who were from the South Australian Conference, it was voted that they should be received and fellowshiped as Members of the Sydney Branch.

The resolution of the Counsel on Friday evening, the 4th instant, disfellowshipping twelve persons, was confirmed by a unanimous vote of the Conference.

Sacrament administered by Elder J. Jones, during which remarks were made by Elder Jones, President Farnham, and Elder Dowdle. A Hymn was then sang, after which the President called on the Clerk to read Brother Peter Penfold's letter.

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,—I now take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines, hoping they will find you in good health, as it leaves us all at present. Since we left Australia we have passed through dangers, difficulties, hardships, and trials;

We set sail, as you are aware, on the 7th September. All went on pretty well until the 3rd of October; that evening, about half-past 8 o'clock, when the winds were blowing free, and the Julia Ann was going about 12 or 13 knots per hour, she suddenly struck on a coral reef off Sicily Island, about 300 to 400 miles west of Tahiti, and she became a total wreck.

When she first struck some of us were singing on the top of the midship house. We soon got down, and went into the house, but finding that not very safe, we went into the cabin—the sea breaking over us every moment, so that it was a thing impossible to stand.

A rope was soon conveyed to the rocks and made fast, upon which some went on shore, but it proved a very poor asylum, for there was not a dry spot to be found, as the sea broke over the rocks every instant. Father, mother, Stephen, and most of the men went on shore by the rope, while I went down in the cabin to lend assistance to the women and children that were still below, and to help them up on the poop.

Sister Humphries, and sister Harris and infant, were drowned in the cabin. Little Mary Humphries and Marian Anderson were washed off the poop and drowned. They are all that were lost. After I had helped to get them all out of the cabin, I came up and found the vessel all broken up into fragments, except the cabin, and into that the water was rushing at a furious rate, sweeping out all the partitions. A great many of us were still clinging to the poop.

After a while I made my escape to the rocks, upon the broken fragments of the vessel, and the men succeeded in rescuing the remainder. We passed a dreadful night, sitting on some of the broken masts, up to the waist in water. At daylight we were all busily engaged picking up such provisions as could be found. One or two small islands were seen about six miles distant; having one boat, with a little repairing, some were soon able to go and view the land—while others staid to pick up such things as were necessary. The islands were small, three in number, without inhabitants, barren and desolate—a few cocoanuts being the only things growing that were fit to eat. With them, some turtles and birds, with the little we had picked up from the wreck, we managed to live.

On the 20th of November, our boat being repaired, the Captain and crew started for Tahiti, and on the 2nd of December, to our great joy, a vessel hove in sight, which proved to be a schooner sent for our deliverance. We embarked on the 3rd, and arrived at the island of Una on the 11th, where we saw the grave of sister Allan, who was buried on that island. We stayed there three days; we then went on to Tahiti; we landed on the 19th. When we arrived here, the Consuls would do nothing for us.

The American Consul said he had nothing to do with us, because we were English; and the English Consul said he had nothing to do with us, because we were in an American ship; so we were in a very peculiar situation,—without friends, without money, without home, without clothes, without food, and in a strange land, under the French Government.

By the charity of the Freemasons' Lodge we were found in food until the 19th of January, after which they could feed us no longer. We then went to the English Consul again, and he has found us in food ever since, but he says he will not do so after the end of this month. How or when we shall get away from this place I know not. We have three orphan children with us, Eliza and Francis Humphries, and Maria Harris, who wish to be remembered to their friends, if you should have the chance to see any of them. There is but very little work for a man to do in this place.

Father and mother and we all are in good health and spirits, though we have lost all our worldly goods, and all that we had; yet we have faith in God, and trust He will deliver us soon from this place. Do not forget to come along the first opportunity; though we were shipwrecked, that is no reason you should be. I hope to see you all before long in the land of the free, surrounded by the saints of the Most High God.

Father, mother, and Stephen join with me in sending our love to you all; likewise, remember us to all friends. Please to let brother Farnbam know of the wreck, also of our situation. Do not grieve yourselves because of our losses, for the loss is our infinite gain.

I remain your affectionate

PETER PENFOLD.

Tahiti, February 17, 1856,
To Mr. Charles Penfold, East Maitland.

A Hymn was sung when Conference adjourned until 7 P.M. Benediction by President Farnham.

Adjourned Meeting at 7 P.M.

A Hymn was sung. Prayer by Elder Jones. Another Hymn was sung, after which Elder Dowdle addressed the Meeting on the first principles of the Gospel. President Farnham followed with a few remarks. A Hymn was sung. Conference adjourned until 11 A.M., on Monday at 103, Parramatta Street. Benediction by President Farnham.

Adjourned Meeting at 103, Parramatta Street, on Monday morning at 11 A.M.

Meeting opened by prayer, by Elder William Baxter. The Meeting was addressed by President Fleming, and Elders Cooke, Jones, Baxter and President Farnham.

In these addresses a strong testimony was given of the truth of the work, and there was also much instruction and Counsel given, suited to the present circumstances and condition of the Saints. There was much of the influence of the Holy Spirit inspiring and dictating to His servants.

Conference adjourned to 7 P.M., for the purpose a Counsel Meeting of all the male Members, to take into consideration measures for relieving the sufferers surviving the wreck of the Julia Ann.

Meeting closed with Benediction, Counsel Meeting at 103, Parramatta Street, on Monday at 7 P.M.

Meeting opened by prayer.

President Farnham presented the case of the sufferers surviving the wreck of the Julia Ann, who were still at Tahiti, without any prospects of getting away from there, and called for an expression of the feelings of the Brethren, in reference to their case. The unanimous feeling of the Brethren was, that every possible exertion should be made for the relief of the sufferers. Several of the Brethren who had prepared to gather with the next Company, expressed their willingness to donate the whole of their means and stop behind to work for more, so that their suffering Brethren at Tahiti might be relieved.

It was proposed, seconded, and carried, that a subscription be opened for the relief of our Brethren and Sisters, who survive the wreck of the barque Julia Ann, and that President Josiah W. Fleming be appointed to receive the same. The general Conference was adjourned until the first Sunday in July.

The President stated that there would be a Special Conference called before the departure of the next Company, for the purpose of regulating the Mission.

Benediction by President Farnham.

JOHN JONES, CLERK.

A. FARNHAM, PRESIDENT.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

STATE OF THE MISSION ON OUR ARRIVAL, APRIL 10, 1853.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK DURING THE 3 YEARS, ENDING APRIL 30th, 1856.

		ORDINATIONS.						DEATHS.	
		Elders.		Priests.		Teachers.		Deacon.	
		Elders.	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacon.	Members.	Total.	Members.	Total.
		8	2	1	1	59	62		
Of this number there has been out off									
		Elders.	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Members.	Total.	Members.	Total.
		3	1	0	0	19	23		
Leaving 39 Members, out of which there has gone to Zion									
		REMAINING.							
		RECEIVED BY BAPTISMS.						by Certificates.	
		Elders.						Elders.	
		Priests.						Priests.	
		Teachers.						Teachers.	
		Deacons.						Deacons.	
		Members.						Gone to Zion.	
		N. S. Wales.....						Births.	
		265						Adults.	
		6						Children.	
		Victoria.....						Cut off	
		77						Total number remaining.	
		Adelaide.....							
		76							
		New Zealand.....							
		12							
		0							
		1							
		1							
		Total.....							
		480							
		16							
		31							
		18							
		11							
		8							
		75							
		62							
		3							
		13							
		20							
		387							

SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALASIAN MISSION OF THE CHURCH
OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, HELD AT THE OLD ASSEMBLY ROOMS, KING STREET, SYDNEY, SUNDAY, MAY 4TH, 1856.

Meeting opened in the usual manner.

President Fleming rose and said, that this was a Special Conference over which President Farnham would preside. President Farnham rose and addressed the Saints, advertizing to the peculiar circumstance of the Colonies, the character of the inhabitants, and the necessity of fidelity and perseverance on the part of the Priesthood and the Saints. After which he called the following brethren to the respective offices attached to their names :—

Elder Absalom Dowdle to the Presidency of the Mission ; Elder William Baxter as a travelling Elder through the Colonies ; Elder William Chevellier to the Presidency of the Sydney Branch ; Brother Charles Frazer, priest, to the office of an Elder, to preside over the N. W. Section ; Brother Enoch Gurrr, priest, to the office of an Elder ; Brother John Farrell, deacon, to the office of an Elder ; Brother Richard Ellis, to the office of an Elder ; Brother Edward Gallard, to the office of a Priest ; Brothers Francis Guy and James Hitchcock, to the office of Teachers.

He then called on Elder J. Jones to read two letters, one from Elder John Penfold from Tahiti, the other from President Brigham Young.

Some further remarks were made by the President, when a Hymn was sung.

The Meeting adjourned until 3 P.M.

Benediction by President A. P. Dowdle.

Adjourned Meeting at 3 P.M.

Meeting opened in the usual manner.

Sacrament was administered by President Fleming, assisted by President Dowdle.

The President rose and called upon the Brethren who had been called to the offices and the Priesthood in the morning to rise upon their feet. It was then resolved that they be received and sustained in the respective offices and calling unto which they are called.

Elder A. P. Dowdle was then set apart by the laying on of hands, to the Presidency of the Mission ; Elder W. Baxter as a travelling Elder, and Elder W. Chevellier to the Presidency of the Sydney Branch, and the other Brethren ordained by the same ordinance to their respective callings in the Priesthood.

The President then laid before the Brethren the condition of the distressed Brethren at Tahiti, and called upon them to assist them ; he also called for means to take the poor Saints and also to assist the Elders.

He then gave some instruction to the Brethren who had been called to the Priesthood, when a Hymn was sung, and Conference was adjourned *sine die*. Benediction by Elder John Jones

JOHN JONES, CLERK.

A. FARNHAM, PRESIDENT

EDITORIAL AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

In the present number of the *Watchman* will be found our third General Epistle addressed to the Saints and the inhabitants of the Colonies, and we call the attention of all, and particularly the Saints to the counsel and instruction contained therein.

We regret to have to record the wreck of the barque *Julia Ann*. She struck on a hidden coral reef near to Sicilly Island, on the evening of 3rd of August last. She left this port on the 7th of September, with a company of Saints consisting of 27 souls, five of whom perished in the wreck, two adults and three children, one of those who perished was Sister Eliza Harris, formerly of the London Conference. Let the Editor of the *Star* be pleased to notice this.

Our readers will perceive that the survivors are still at Tahiti without any prospect of being relieved, until we go along with the next company and call for them.

Arrangements have been made with S. F. Sergent, Captain of the Clipper Schooner, *Jenny Ford*, for the departure of the next Company. This vessel will sail about the 25th instant, and will call at Tahiti to take on board our brethren there.

From the minutes of the Special Conference held on the 4th instant, the future organization of the work will be known.

We have received advices from England. The work is prospering there, Elder F. D. Richards after a long absence, has returned home and is succeeded in the office of President of the British Mission, by Elder Lorenzo Snow, one of the twelve. The office at Liverpool is at No. 36, Islington.

An invoice has been received of another shipment of books; by this means the mission will be supplied with the principle portion of the works of the Church, with the exception of Hymn Books of which there are none. The following is a list of the works:—

Book of Mormon, in roan, calf, and Morocco.		
Doctrine and Covenants	do.	do.
Life of the Prophet Joseph	do.	do.
Spencer's Letters	do.	do.
Voice of Warning	do.	do.
Key to Theology	do.	do.
Orson Pratt's Work's	half calf.	
Journal of Discourses, vols. 11, 14, 15, 16, 17.		
Zion's Watchman.		
Government of God.		
Pearl of Great Price.		
Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon		

Divine Authority of Joseph Smith and several other tracts.

From the columns of the "Watchman" it will appear that every preparation is being made for the speedy departure of another company from these lands, and as there has been several who have been crying out beware of kidnappers and other unmeaning expressions, we call upon them to take notice of our movements. We are the Lord's servants sent to do the Lord's business, and fear not the eye of man. 't here are those who would stop the gathering of the Saints if it were possible; for this end, a certain would-be poet, associated himself with a mean low degraded sot, and if we are correctly informed, with them there is a certain Rev. gentlemen who once lectured against Mormonism. Oh! if these men would but reflect upon the adage, that "a man is known by the company that he keeps," how abashed and self-reproached they would feel. Besides those previously alluded to, there is F. G. and R. G., one of these has said that he wished he was where lynch-law could be practised? What! an admirer of British laws and jurisprudence desire to be where he could exercise the corrupt and iniquitous law of lynching? Well if he desires it, we are prepared to pay his passage to America were it is practised.

We regret to have to record the death of Elder Orson Spencer, author of Spencer's Letters, &c., he died at St. Louis, on the 15th October, 1855.

Intelligence from Deseret is cheering. The condition of the Saints is much better than was anticipated, they are happy, the purposes of God are rolling on. The prophesies of learned Editors have failed, the grasshoppers have not destroyed the Kingdom of God, neither will they or any other agency, for it will increase in power, dominion and glory, until the Kingdom and dominion under the whole Heaven is given to the people of the Saints of the Most High.

Since writing the above, a letter has been received from President Brigham Young, which will be found in our pages. It is always cheering and refreshing to us to hear from the authorities in Zion: it is to us as food is to the hungry, or drink to the exhausted and weary traveller.

